

A Word About Volunteers



Janet Pearl and Kris Swedlund experience "temporary" blindness during lunch at a volunteer orientation workshop held recently under the direction of Madge Levinson, volunteer coordinator. Blindfolds were provided through the courtesy of British Airlines and El Al Airlines. Visqueen in the background is further evidence of renovation taking place at the Society.

Our broad program of services would be impossible without the time and talents of a large corps of dedicated volunteers.

These volunteers complement the work of the paid staff. They, too, are staff, but their payment is a different currency. By helping others experience life satisfaction and fulfillment, our volunteers achieve an enrichment in their own lives.

Volunteer activities range from board membership (with all its attendant responsibilities) to a once-a-year trip to the zoo as a sighted guide—from working with the blind (providing transportation) to working for the blind (transcribing braille).

To say that we are proud of these dedicated volunteers is, indeed, an understatement. Why not join this diversified group of people and broaden your own horizons?

The Toledo Society for the Blind

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Cody, John N.
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Macino, Christopher
Mallory, Sue
Malone, Mae L.
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Martin, June E.
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Thompson, Joanne R.
Thoroman, Mrs. Earl
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Willard, Robert L., M.D.
William L. Gerken Company
Wilson, Charles W.
Wygant, Grace A.
Yoder, Don
Yoder, Ethel W.
Zenobia Temple AAOMMS
Zonta Club

* A partial list only.

the Toledo Society for the Blind

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A Community Chest Agency

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Society Puts on New Look



Workmen prepare the old entrance for enclosure.

Loud hammering noises, a steady stream of workmen hauling materials back and forth, and a constant reshuffling of staff people from one office to another. Week in and week out. Staff members are beginning to wonder if the office renovation now underway at the Toledo Society for the Blind will ever end. But by the time this goes to press, completion will indeed be near.

The \$247,300 renovation now in progress is scheduled for completion by mid-April. The interior changes are many. In fact, most of us won't recognize the building as being the same. For openers, the entrance has been relocated to allow room for a large display area.

"Overall, the renovation will allow improvement of services, give better utilization of interior space, and help conserve energy," Barry McEwen, executive director, says. Following are some of the changes taking place:

1. Added insulation and energy-saving windows to help cut energy costs;
2. Rearrangement of offices to effectively utilize existing space;
3. New ceilings and carpeting to decrease noise volume;
4. A lift from the first floor to the downstairs level rehabilitation center to aid mobility for the handicapped;
5. Air conditioning for the entire building; and,
6. New flooring for the corrected flooding problem in the rehabilitation center.

The architectural firm, The Richard Troy Partnership, has been contracted for the project. General contractor is Comte Construction Co.; plumbing heating, ventilating, and air conditioning, W. D. McKittrick, Co., Inc.; and electric, Ruff Electric Co.

An "Open House" will be scheduled at a later date.

Society to Host Multi-State Meeting

Diabetes and blindness will be the featured topic of discussion at a conference to be hosted by the Toledo Society for the Blind on Wednesday evening and Thursday, May 23 and 24. Guest speakers include Fred Whitehouse, M. D., Chief of Metabolics, Ford Hospital, Detroit, and president of the American Diabetes Association, and Irvin Schloss, Coordinator of Governmental Relations, American Foundation of the Blind.

The evening session will address the implications for the blind of recent legislative amendments. The Thursday session, to be held at the Continuing Education Center at the University of Toledo, will feature a number of workshops in addition to comments by Dr. Whitehouse and others on the subject of diabetes and blindness.

The conference is sponsored jointly by TSB and the American Foundation for the Blind.

Accreditation Approved

In our last newsletter, we reported that the Toledo Society for the Blind was striving to achieve accreditation through the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped (NAC). It is indeed our pleasure to now report that accreditation was achieved effective last January.

NAC is the standard-setting and accrediting body in the field of work with the blind and visually handicapped. Accreditation signifies that an agency or school is meeting nationally recognized standards for quality services, responsible management, and public accountability. TSB is one of 77 agencies and schools throughout the country accredited by NAC.

Through NAC accreditation, TSB has been commended for its attainment of national recognition as an organization committed to the provision of quality services to blind and visually handicapped persons. Accreditation has been granted for 2½ years.

Barry A. McEwen, executive director

Sports Car Rally: An Afternoon of Fun

"It's fun to give directions to someone else for a change," Paulette Wilson said with a smile as she spoke about being a navigator for the Braille Sports Car Rally. And the navigators definitely were calling the shots that day last fall.

After a three year lapse, the Toledo Society for the Blind and the Northwest Ohio Region of the Sports Car Club of America once again sponsored the rally. Bob Schneider, rally board chairman for the Sports Car Club, served as chairman of the event. Thirty-two sports car drivers and blind navigators participated in the 56-mile trip.

Paulette and 15 other navigators read map directions written in braille or large print. Even though she and her driver, Diane White from Sylvania

of TSB, says that the accreditation process involved two preliminary steps. "The first step was an intensive self-evaluation. Our governing authority, staff, persons served, representatives of organizations of the blind, and co-operative agencies in the community came together to systematically evaluate our management and service programs in light of NAC's standards and our own philosophy of service. Then, in June, four consultants conducted a comprehensive on-site review of our organization. A report was prepared which included recommendations and commendations to assist us in improving our services."

William Marti, president of TSB's board of trustees noted, "We are proud to have received the public recognition of NAC accreditation. This is objective evidence that the Toledo Society for the Blind is continuing to improve in meeting the needs of blind and visually handicapped persons in our community."



Diane White and Paulette Wilson

Township, didn't place in the race, Paulette says, "I really enjoyed it. It provided an opportunity for me to do something I really enjoy."

First place winners were Wayne Zitkus (driver) and Bob Kniseley (navigator), both of whom reside in the Sylvania area.

own life has ended, you can make various types of provisions in your will. A will is your opportunity to control the distribution of your life's accumulation. We urge you to make your participation in the work of the Toledo Society for the Blind permanent by including a bequest in your will. Barry McEwen, the Society's executive director, will be happy to discuss various types of will provisions with you at your convenience.

New Staff Members

Mary Reiff began working for the Society in October, 1978, as an orientation and mobility instructor. She is a recent graduate of Cleveland State University, with a bachelor's degree in social services-orientation and mobility. Mary has had special training in low vision utilization and electronic training devices. She did her practicum time at the Cleveland Society for the Blind and her internship at the Center for the Blind in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In January Sue Vlahas was named a rehabilitation teacher for TSB. Sue graduated from Western Michigan University where she received a bachelor's degree in special education for blind and visually impaired children and most recently received a master's degree in rehabilitation teaching. While attending WMU, Sue also worked at the Michigan Rehabilitation Center for the Blind as a recreation instructor. She is a native of Michigan.

Also in January, Lynne Halbert joined our staff as the Reading and Information Services Coordinator. Ms. Halbert served the Toledo Area Radio Reading Service (TARRS) as project director. She will continue to develop this service at our agency. Ms. Halbert received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Bowling Green State University and is experienced in both social service and vocational rehabilitation. She was formerly associated with Goodwill Industries of Toledo as a program coordinator.

Darlene Bruno joined the staff on January 15 as administrative secretary to our director, Barry McEwen. Her experience in working with visually handicapped persons began in 1971 as a counseling volunteer for the Indiana State Agency for the Blind. After returning to Toledo in 1973, she served the visually handicapped through TSB. Prior to joining TSB, she was an administrative secretary to the executive officers of People's Savings Association at Westgate.

The Sign Post

Though it is only spring, it is not too early to indicate your interest in the Holiday Greeting Card Program. To receive sample cards, just fill out the enclosed postpaid order form and drop it in the mail. When the cards are received from our printer later this summer, samples will be sent to those who have filled out these cards.

A parents group for parents of visually impaired children is being established under the guidance of the Toledo Society for the Blind and the Bureau of Services for the Blind. This support group will help parents be aware of resources available to them and to have a direct access to agencies and school systems. Mainstreaming as it relates to public education of visually impaired children is a priority issue with the group. For more information, contact Cathy Ruffer, 241-1183.



Lions Club members (pictured above in foreground is Joseph Meyers; background l. to r., Martha Magee, Madelyn Levinson, Jim Mauntler, and Freeman Crampton) made up and distributed 60 fruit baskets to blind people in nursing homes during the holiday season. The Club also held its 53rd annual Christmas Party for the Blind which featured the Central Catholic Glee Club and the Cake Walkin' Jass Band. 325 people attended the holiday affair.

Camp Hemlock in Hillsdale, Michigan, has been scheduled for August 5-11. Each camper pays \$35 for the week which includes transportation. However, the actual cost is \$100 each. Donations are being taken to offset the difference. If you wish to make a contribution, contact Rosalyn Snow, 241-1183.

Radio Reading Service Added

Effective January 1, the Toledo Area Radio Reading Service became a program of the Toledo Society for the Blind. In conjunction with the radio reading service, a comprehensive Reading and Information Service is being developed to serve northwestern Ohio and southeastern Michigan. This will include a radio reading component which will broadcast 30 to 40 hours of programming a week over a closed circuit radio frequency.

The radio reading component will feature in-depth daily readings from The Blade and other sources, programming devoted to independent living and rehabilitation as well as special interest programming.

Another facet to the Reading and Information Service includes a Phone-In Service with individual reading and tape service. When complete, the Phone-

In component will feature a multi-line telephone system allowing individuals to phone-in specific requests for printed information which will be taped and available for playback at the individual's convenience. Examples of phone-in requests might include a request to research the classified ads for lawn care services, an apartment, used appliances, etc.

Until this service can be fully funded and developed, we have begun with one segment of the Phone-In component. Currently, daily recordings of grocery ads and other sale items, TV movie listings, and topical articles from the Blade are available. Funds are actively being solicited for this new program.

Further information about the Radio Reading Service can be obtained from Lynne Halbert, program coordinator, at 241-1183.



Barbara Fulton gives Jeffery Smith a reassuring smile while she examines his eyes. Mrs. Fulton was one of 15 volunteers trained for the eye examination program sponsored by the Society for over 700 preschool children in the Head Start program. The eye-screening program was under the direction of Beverly St. John, coordinator for blindness prevention programs.



Effective the first of this year, workshop employees received fringe benefits that included retirement benefits, five holidays, and five vacation days. Pictured above are: (front, l. to r.) Linda Lynn, David Kreiger, Patricia Blumensaatt, Florence Henry, John Guerro, Addie Pointer, and John Lindsey. Back line (l. to r.) includes Julia Braden, Esther Tracy, and Marie Marquart.

Who Needs A Will, Anyway?

You do. Whether you are a Mr., Mrs., or Miss, you can exercise some rights, take advantage of some privileges, and demonstrate your thoughtfulness for others by planning your will. It is the kind of opportunity most Americans would want if they had to compete for it . . . but they don't. It is everyone's right and responsibility.

If you would like to help the Toledo Society for the Blind, even after your



Karen Shane (standing) and Audrey Smith (seated at front), both from the Upsal Day School for Blind Children in Philadelphia, led a two-day vision stimulation workshop that was sponsored by the Toledo Society for the Blind. The workshop focused on techniques to stimulate eyesight in multi-handicapped children with low vision. Thirty of 33 school districts in Ohio with special education classes in vision were represented at the workshop.